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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A fishing rod and accessory ring combination, comprising:
 - a fishing rod shaft portion, having a longitudinal axis and including a butt portion and a reel seat portion;
 - a rigid fishing accessory ring, including a first aperture provided in a first material, the first aperture configured to securely engage a portion of a said butt portion or reel seat portion such that the accessory ring is prevented from movement along at said longitudinal axis by a securing member; and
 - a second aperture provided in a second material, the second aperture extending away from the first aperture, the second aperture rigid enough to engage a safety line or a harness line and configured to engage an article of fishing tackle, a harness line, or hook or a safety line or a hook.
2. (Currently amended) The fishing rod and accessory ring combination in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a third aperture provided in a third material, the third aperture extending away from the first aperture, the third aperture configured to engage one or more of an article of fishing tackle, a harness line or hook and a safety line or hook.
3. (Currently amended) The fishing rod and accessory ring combination in accordance with claim 1, wherein the first and second ~~material~~ materials form a contiguous article defining the first and second apertures.

4. (Currently amended) The fishing rod and accessory ring combination in accordance with

claim 1, wherein the first and second apertures are completely distinct apertures such that the

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